

**1996-2004 Farmland Summary**  
**The Counties of Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Ventura, Kern, and San Diego**  
 Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program  
 CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

COUNTY	LAND USE CATEGORY	ACREAGE BY CATEGORY								1996-2004 Net Acreage Converted to Non- Agricultural Use	Percentage of County Inventoried
		1996 (1)	1998 (1)	Converted to Non-Ag (2) 1996-1998	2000 (1)	Converted to Non-Ag (2) 1998-2000	2002 (1)	Converted to Non-Ag (2) 2000-2002	2004 (1)	Converted to Non-Ag (3) 2002-2004	
IMPERIAL	Prime Farmland	200,234	199,707	78	199,594	54	198,123	375	196,927	473	980
	Farmland of Statewide Importance	321,732	319,372	180	319,273	226	315,457	405	313,218	1,019	1,830
	Unique Farmland	591	592	0	582	0	2,978	0	2,132	29	29
	Farmland of Local Importance	33,031	35,218	164	35,515	22	33,603	234	33,333	464	884
	<i>Important Farmland Subtotal</i>	555,588	554,889	422	554,964	302	550,161	1,014	545,610	1,985	3,723
	Grazing Land	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<i>Agricultural Land Subtotal</i>	555,588	554,889	422	554,964	302	550,161	1,014	545,610	1,985	3,723
	<b>Total Area Inventoried</b>	1,028,569	1,028,569		1,028,567		1,028,567		1,028,567		36%
LOS ANGELES	Prime Farmland	24,355	24,632	142	28,796	71	32,187	46	33,218	46	305
	Farmland of Statewide Importance	977	991	10	994	0	939	0	1,029	0	10
	Unique Farmland	871	933	0	978	0	1,155	0	1,119	0	0
	Farmland of Local Importance	30,680	30,736	471	29,849	471	8,171	471	8,685	0	1,413
	<i>Important Farmland Subtotal</i>	56,883	57,292	623	60,617	542	42,452	517	44,051	46	1,728
	Grazing Land	217,878	218,118	2,049	216,795	1,943	233,399	1,910	228,826	2,278	8,180
	<i>Agricultural Land Subtotal</i>	274,761	275,410	2,672	277,412	2,485	275,851	2,427	272,877	2,324	9,908
	<b>Total Area Inventoried</b>	1,077,503	1,077,504		1,077,504		1,077,506		1,077,506		43%
ORANGE	Prime Farmland	13,068	11,099	735	10,247	518	8,531	4,254	7,260	3,501	9,008
	Farmland of Statewide Importance	1,225	842	12	834	12	736	280	621	269	573
	Unique Farmland	5,943	6,259	282	5,872	217	5,343	2,927	5,601	2,865	6,291
	Farmland of Local Importance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<i>Important Farmland Subtotal</i>	20,236	18,200	1,029	16,953	747	14,610	7,461	13,482	6,635	15,872
	Grazing Land	38,953	38,517	0	37,963	0	36,960	6	35,872	16	22
	<i>Agricultural Land Subtotal</i>	59,189	56,717	1,029	54,916	747	51,570	7,467	49,354	6,651	15,894
	<b>Total Area Inventoried</b>	509,460	509,460		509,460		509,459		509,459		100%
RIVERSIDE	Prime Farmland	168,763	159,459	5,104	151,011	3,732	139,253	2,525	134,429	1,471	12,832
	Farmland of Statewide Importance	55,842	53,767	739	49,446	514	49,508	516	48,499	283	2,052
	Unique Farmland	41,320	41,674	1,296	40,950	1,205	39,936	904	38,691	749	4,154
	Farmland of Local Importance	241,461	246,838	16,835	243,414	16,766	250,581	15,998	244,849	15,283	64,882
	<i>Important Farmland Subtotal</i>	507,386	501,738	23,974	484,821	22,217	479,278	19,943	466,468	17,786	83,920
	Grazing Land	135,507	134,599	4,485	124,714	4,440	117,005	4,459	116,029	4,066	17,450
	<i>Agricultural Land Subtotal</i>	642,893	636,337	28,459	609,535	26,657	596,283	24,402	582,497	21,852	101,370
	<b>Total Area Inventoried</b>	1,934,616	1,934,616		1,934,616		1,934,619		1,934,619		41%
SAN BERNARDINO	Prime Farmland	30,722	29,975	485	24,928	363	21,648	210	20,315	117	1,175
	Farmland of Statewide Importance	12,169	12,026	190	11,318	224	9,708	119	8,777	95	628
	Unique Farmland	4,314	3,888	32	3,676	32	3,412	14	2,654	3	81
	Farmland of Local Importance	5,258	5,036	876	4,816	869	3,312	668	2,928	523	2,936
	<i>Important Farmland Subtotal</i>	52,463	50,925	1,583	44,738	1,488	38,080	1,011	34,674	738	4,820
	Grazing Land	933,838	933,101	14,133	936,090	13,899	919,330	13,266	915,548	12,759	54,057
	<i>Agricultural Land Subtotal</i>	986,301	984,026	15,716	980,828	15,387	957,410	14,277	950,222	13,497	58,877
	<b>Total Area Inventoried</b>	1,449,544	1,449,543		1,449,542		1,449,542		1,449,542		11%
VENTURA	Prime Farmland	52,141	51,818	1,015	48,573	790	47,877	523	47,192	365	2,693
	Farmland of Statewide Importance	37,611	37,700	223	35,792	164	35,204	191	34,979	182	760
	Unique Farmland	22,437	22,643	346	28,103	155	27,982	143	29,075	142	786
	Farmland of Local Importance	11,148	11,076	974	19,044	973	18,042	1,132	18,815	1,014	4,093
	<i>Important Farmland Subtotal</i>	123,337	123,237	2,558	131,512	2,082	129,105	7,989	128,061	1,703	14,332
	Grazing Land	208,752	207,852	5,182	197,973	5,070	198,372	4,192	198,087	3,910	18,354
	<i>Agricultural Land Subtotal</i>	332,089	331,089	7,740	329,485	7,152	327,477	6,181	326,148	5,613	26,686
	<b>Total Area Inventoried</b>	555,952	555,953		555,951		555,951		555,951		47%
KERN (4)	Prime Farmland	539,575	537,043	3,940	531,203	3,653	526,524	3,460	518,804	2,775	13,828
	Farmland of Statewide Importance	113,492	112,258	74	109,622	69	108,338	69	106,326	55	267
	Unique Farmland	55,689	54,103	0	51,076	0	54,753	0	51,095	0	0
	Farmland of Local Importance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<i>Important Farmland Subtotal</i>	708,756	703,404	4,014	691,901	3,722	689,615	3,529	676,225	2,830	14,095
	Irrigated Farmland	1,006,483	999,375	0	987,081	0	985,030	4	967,552	7	11
	Non-irrigated Farmland	10,009	6,389	0	3,341	0	2,428	0	2,013	0	0
	<i>Interim Farmland Subtotal</i>	1,016,492	1,005,764	0	990,422	0	987,458	4	969,565	7	11
	Grazing Land	1,763,795	1,767,518	631	1,777,640	631	1,778,421	544	1,789,054	453	2,259
	<i>Agricultural Land Subtotal</i>	2,780,287	2,773,282	631	2,768,062	631	2,765,879	4,073	2,758,619	460	5,795
	<b>Total Area Inventoried</b>	5,221,383	5,221,384		5,221,382		5,221,382		5,221,382		100%
SAN DIEGO	Prime Farmland	11,100	10,660	221	10,257	202	9,401	431	8,525	330	1,184
	Farmland of Statewide Importance	13,902	13,617	311	13,142	214	13,450	395	12,181	204	1,124
	Unique Farmland	67,734	67,535	295	57,306	98	57,522	301	55,566	426	1,120
	Farmland of Local Importance	105,190	105,001	4,240	112,398	3,197	133,543	2,694	134,491	2,486	12,617
	<i>Important Farmland Subtotal</i>	197,926	196,813	5,067	193,103	3,711	213,916	3,821	210,763	3,446	16,045
	Grazing Land	142,857	142,335	3,363	137,619	2,721	111,442	2,380	107,327	2,031	10,495
	<i>Agricultural Land Subtotal</i>	340,783	339,148	8,430	330,722	6,432	325,358	6,201	318,090	5,477	26,540
	<b>Total Area Inventoried</b>	2,166,693	2,166,693		2,166,692		2,166,692		2,166,692		80%

(1) Source: California Department of Conservation, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program . 1984-2004 Land Use Summaries for the Counties of Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Ventura, and San Diego.

a Imperial County: Due to the incorporation of digital soil survey data (SSURGO) in 2002, acreages for farmland, grazing and other land categories may differ from those published in the 2000-2002 Farmland Conversion Report.

b Los Angeles County: The first use of orthorectified imagery in 2002 resulted in significant boundary adjustments, particularly in areas with terrain. These improvements resulted in a net decrease in the number of Urban acres during the 2002 update. Due to the incorporation of digital soil survey data (SSURGO) in 2002, acreages for farmland, grazing and other land categories

differ from those published in the 2000-2002 Farmland Conversion Report. A large reclassification of Farmland of Local Importance to Grazing Land seen in the revised 2002 data is due to these factors and an analysis of the long-term idling of dryland farming areas.

c Orange, San Bernardino, and Ventura Counties: Due to the incorporation of digital soil survey data (SSURGO) in 2000, acreages for farmland, grazing and other land categories may differ from those published in the 1998-2000 Farmland Conversion Report.

d Riverside and San Diego Counties: Due to the incorporation of digital soil survey data (SSURGO) during this update, acreages for farmland, grazing and other land use categories may differ from those published in the 2000-2002 California Farmland Conversion Report.

e San Diego County: Farmland of Local Importance increased relative to Grazing Lands as a result of the automated selection of qualifying soil units.

**(2)** 1996-2002 Conversions to Non-Agricultural land totals based on California Farmland Conversion Reports [1996-1998; 1998-2000; 2000-2002]. California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection. June 2000; December 2002; December 2004.

a Imperial County: 1996-2002 Conversions to Non-Agricultural land totals based on conversion to "Urban and Built-up Land", California Farmland Conversion Reports [1996-1998; 1998-2000; 2000-2002]. California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection. June 2000; December 2002; December 2004. 2002-2004 Conversions to Non-Agricultural land totals based on conversion to "Urban and Built-up Land", 2002-2004 Farmland Conversion Data. Table A-8 Imperial. County 2002-2004 Land Use Conversion. California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection. October 2006.

**(3)** 2002-2004 Farmland Conversion Data. Table A-11, Los Angeles County 2002-2004 Land Use Conversion; Table A-20, Orange County 2002-2004 Land Use Conversion; Table A-22, Riverside County 2002-2004 Land Use Conversion; Table A-25, San Bernardino County 2002-2004 Land Use Conversion; Table A-42, Ventura County 2002-2004 Land Use Conversion Table A-46, Kern County Important Farmland Area 2002-2004 Land Use Conversion; Table A-47, Kern County Interim Farmland Area 2002-2004 Land Use Conversion. California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection.

**(4)** Kern County Data

a Important Farmland totals: Kern County 1984-2004 Land Use Summary (Important Farmland). California Department of Conservation, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. Acreage decrease in 2002 is associated with incorporation of digital soil survey (SSURGO) data in the Important Farmland component of the county. New acreages reflect SSURGO boundaries.

b Interim and Grazing Land totals: Kern County 1984-2004 Land Use Summary (Interim Farmland). California Department of Conservation, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. In areas with NRCS soil surveys, Irrigated Farmland is the total for Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, and Unique Farmland. 49% of the county is covered by NRCS soil survey data, enabling differentiation of irrigated land by soil quality.

**Definitions:**

**Irrigated Farmland** is land with a developed irrigation water supply that is dependable and of adequate quality. Land must have been used for irrigated agricultural production at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date.

**Land Committed to Nonagricultural Use** is defined as existing farmland, grazing land, and vacant areas that have a permanent commitment for development. This optional designation allows local governments to provide detail on the nature of changes expected to occur in the future. It is available both statistically and as an overlay to the Important Farmland Map.

**Prime Farmland** has the best combination of physical and chemical features able to sustain long-term agricultural production. This land has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to produce sustained high yields. Land must have been used for irrigated agricultural production at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date.

**Farmland of Statewide Importance** is similar to Prime Farmland but with minor shortcomings, such as greater slopes or less ability to store soil moisture. Land must have been used for irrigated agricultural production at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date.

**Unique Farmland** consists of lesser quality soils used for the production of the state's leading agricultural crops. This land is usually irrigated, but may include nonirrigated orchards or vineyards as found in some climatic zones in California. Land must have been cropped at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date.

**Farmland of Local Importance** is land of importance to the local agricultural economy as determined by each county's board of supervisors and a local advisory committee.

**Grazing Land** is land on which the existing vegetation is suited to the grazing of livestock. This category was developed in cooperation with the California Cattlemen's Association, University of California Cooperative Extension, and other groups interested in the extent of grazing activities. The minimum mapping unit is 40 acres.

**Urban and Built-up Land** is occupied by structures with a building density of at least 1 unit to 1.5 acres, or approximately 6 structures to a 10-acre parcel. Common examples include residential, industrial, commercial, institutional facilities, cemeteries, airports, golf courses, sanitary landfills, sewage treatment, and water control structures.